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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 15

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Argentina*, Australia, Czech Republic*, Italy, Poland, Portugal*, Slovakia*, Russian Federation and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Succession of States in respect of international human rights treaties

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 1993/23 of 5 March 1993,

Bearing in mind relevant decisions of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on succession issues, in respect of international obligations in the field of human rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1994/68) on action taken for the implementation of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/23,

Welcoming the recommendation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, to encourage and facilitate the ratification of and accession or succession to international human rights treaties and protocols,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Emphasizing once again the special importance of the observance of universal norms and standards on human rights for the maintenance of stability and the rule of law in any State and noting in this connection the paramount responsibility of each State to promote, protect and secure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Taking note of progress made in the confirmation by some successor States of their obligations under international human rights treaties,

1. Reiterates its call to successor States which have not yet done so to confirm to appropriate depositories that they continue to be bound by obligations under international human rights treaties;

2. Emphasizes the special nature of the human rights treaties aimed at the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Requests the human rights treaty bodies to consider further the issue of the continuing applicability of the respective international human rights treaties to successor States, with the aim of assisting them in meeting their obligations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to encourage successor States to confirm their obligations under the international human rights treaties to which their predecessors were a party, as from the date of their independence;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session in regard to action taken under this agenda item.

6. Decides to continue the consideration of this question at its fifty-first session under the agenda item entitled "Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights".

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